In the Claims

Claims 1 to 29 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 to 12 and 14 to 29 are rejected.

Claim 13 is objected to.

Explanation of Amendments in the Claims:

CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A hand tool comprising:

~~a~~ an impact tool head for performing work by impacting a surface; and

a handle including a main portion extending in a longitudinal direction between a gripping portion and a tool head supporting portion opposite the gripping portion which supports the impact tool head thereon, the longitudinal direction lying generally in a vertical plane and a horizontal plane in use;

the gripping portion being offset at ~~an~~ a compound angle inclination in relation to the longitudinal direction of the main portion, the compound angle inclination including a lateral angle deviation from the vertical plane and a vertical angle deviation from the horizontal plane of the longitudinal direction; ~~and~~

the tool head supporting portion being offset at an inclination in relation to the longitudinal direction of the main portion including a lateral angle deviation from the vertical plane of the longitudinal direction; and

the lateral angle deviation of the gripping portion and the lateral angle deviation of the tool head supporting portion being offset in a same direction relative to the vertical plane.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A tool according to Claim ~~1~~ 5 wherein the vertical angle deviation of the gripping portion and the vertical angle deviation of the tool head supporting portion are offset ~~at a vertical angle from the main portion~~ in opposite directions relative to the horizontal plane.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) A tool according to Claim 1 wherein the tool

head supporting portion is offset from the main portion of the handle at a compound angle inclination in relation to the longitudinal direction of the main portion including a the lateral angle deviation from the vertical plane of the longitudinal direction and a vertical angle deviation from the horizontal plane of the longitudinal direction.

6. (currently amended) A hammer kit comprising:

an elongate handle having a main portion and an end portion of reduced dimension;

a head having a body and an opening formed in the body for snugly receiving the end portion of the handle therein; ~~and~~

~~fastening means~~ a threaded fastener mechanism for securing the end portion of the handle within the opening in the head whereby the head remains selectively separable from the handle; and

a plurality of weighted members, each being selectively mountable in the opening in the body;

the weighted members being interchangeable with one another and having differing weight from one another.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) The hammer kit according to Claim 6 wherein the opening extends through the body of the head and wherein ~~there is provided~~ each weighted member comprises a wedge for being snugly received in one end of the opening, the narrow portion of the handle being received in an opposing end of the opening.

9. (currently amended) The hammer kit according to Claim 8 wherein ~~the~~ each wedge includes a through bore receiving the fastening mechanism ~~means~~ therethrough.

10. (currently amended) The hammer kit according to Claim 8

wherein there is provided a plate member spanning the end of the opening receiving ~~the~~ each wedge therethrough, the fastening mechanism ~~means~~ securing the plate member to the handle for clamping the head and wedge member therebetween.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The hammer kit according to Claim 6 wherein the fastening mechanism ~~means~~ comprises a threaded rod supported on the handle and a threaded nut securing the head between the nut and the handle.

13. (currently amended) ~~The hammer according to Claim 12 wherein~~ A hammer comprising:

an elongate handle having a main portion and an end portion of reduced dimension;

a head having a body and an opening formed in the body for snugly receiving the end portion of the handle therein;

a threaded fastener mechanism for securing the end portion of the handle within the opening in the head whereby the head remains selectively separable from the handle, the mechanism comprising a threaded rod supported on the handle and a threaded nut securing the head between the nut and the handle, the threaded rod ~~is~~ being received in a bore formed in the handle; and

~~wherein there is provided~~ a compressible member surrounding the rod within the bore.

14. (currently amended) The hammer kit according to Claim 6 wherein the fastening mechanism includes ~~means including~~ a first threaded member secured to the handle and a second threaded member for mating with the first threaded member, the fastening mechanism ~~means~~ including a resilient washer clamped between confronting faces of the first and second threaded members.

15. (currently amended) The hammer kit according to Claim 6

wherein the handle includes reinforcing hafting material surrounding the main portion adjacent the end portion supporting the head thereon.

16. (currently amended) The hammer kit according to Claim 6 wherein the body of the head extends in a longitudinal direction of the head between an impact face which is perpendicular to the longitudinal direction and a claw member which curves in the longitudinal direction towards the handle, the handle being supported transversely to the longitudinal direction of the head and wherein there is provided a domed fulcrum member selectively mounted on the body of the head opposite the handle.

17. (currently amended) The hammer kit according to Claim 6 wherein the body of the head extends in a longitudinal direction of the head between an impact face which is perpendicular to the longitudinal direction and a claw member which curves in the longitudinal direction towards the handle, the handle being supported transversely to the longitudinal direction of the head and wherein the body of the head includes a domed fulcrum member integrally formed on the body of the head opposite the handle and which is continuous in profile with the claw member.

18. (currently amended) The hammer kit according to Claim 6 comprising ~~a kit including~~ a plurality of heads, each having an opening formed therein of similar configuration for receiving the end portion of the handle therein, each head varying in dimensions from remaining heads of the kit.

19. (currently amended) The hammer kit according to Claim 18 wherein at least one head includes an impact area differing in dimensions from remaining heads of the kit.

20. (currently amended) The hammer kit according to Claim 18 wherein at least one head includes a weight which is greater than a weight of ~~each~~ at least some of the remaining heads of the kit.

21. (currently amended) The hammer kit according to Claim 6 wherein the main portion of the handle extends in a longitudinal direction of the handle between a gripping portion of the handle and the end portion supporting the head thereon opposite the gripping portion, both the gripping portion and the end portion being offset at an inclination in relation to the longitudinal direction of the main portion.

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) A hammer comprising:

an elongate handle having a main portion extending in a longitudinal direction between a gripping portion and a tool head supporting portion opposite the gripping portion, both the gripping portion and the tool head supporting portion being offset at an inclination in relation to the longitudinal direction of the main portion, and an end portion of reduced dimension on the tool head supporting portion; [[,]]

the handle including an elongate bore extending approximately one third a length of the handle from an ~~open~~ opening at the end portion to a terminal end within the handle;

a head having a body and an opening formed in the body for snugly receiving the end portion of the handle therein; and

a tension member received through the bore in the handle and secured under tension between the terminal end of the bore and the head;

wherein the handle is maintained under compression only between the terminal end of the bore and the end portion by the tension member.

25. (original) The hammer according to Claim 24 wherein the tension member comprises a rigid rod.

26. (original) The hammer according to Claim 24 wherein the tension

member is threadably secured to the terminal end of the bore.

27. (original) The hammer according to Claim 24 wherein the head is secured to the handle by a clamping member threadably secured to the tension member.

28. (cancelled)

29. (cancelled)

30. (new) The hammer kit according to Claim 21 wherein the longitudinal direction of the main portion lies generally in a vertical plane and a horizontal plane in use;

the gripping portion being offset at a compound angle inclination in relation to the longitudinal direction of the main portion, the compound angle inclination including a lateral angle deviation from the vertical plane and a vertical angle deviation from the horizontal plane of the longitudinal direction;

the end portion being offset at an inclination in relation to the longitudinal direction of the main portion including a lateral angle deviation from the vertical plane of the longitudinal direction;

the lateral angle deviation of the gripping portion and the lateral angle deviation of the end portion being offset in a same direction relative to the vertical plane.

31. (new) The hammer kit according to Claim 21 wherein the longitudinal direction of the main portion lies generally in a vertical plane and a horizontal plane in use;

the gripping portion being offset at a compound angle inclination in relation to the longitudinal direction of the main portion, the compound angle inclination including a lateral angle deviation from the vertical plane and a vertical angle deviation from the horizontal plane of the longitudinal direction;

the tool head supporting portion being offset at a compound angle inclination in relation to the longitudinal direction of the main portion including a lateral angle deviation from the vertical plane of the longitudinal direction and a vertical angle deviation from the horizontal plane of the longitudinal direction;

the vertical angle deviation of the gripping portion and the vertical angle deviation of the tool head supporting portion being offset in opposite directions relative to the horizontal plane.